

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, immediately after the title, please insert the following paragraph and heading as follows:

This specification for the instant application should be granted the priority date of November 10, 2003, the filing date of the corresponding German patent application 103 52 847.4 as well as the priority date of September 28, 2004, the filing date of the corresponding International patent application PCT/EP2004/010827.

Background of the Invention.

On page 1, line 8, through page 2, line 4, please amend this paragraph as follows:

Recently, it is acceptable to operate exhaust gas cleaning systems without reheating the clean gas that leaves the scrubber unit, and to use wet systems as flue ducts. As a result, on the one hand the overall manufacturing costs, and on the other hand the maintenance cost, of the exhaust gas cleaning system can be significantly reduced. For inspection and repair of the components of the exhaust gas cleaning unit, especially in the scrubber, after shutting the boiler down one must take care that the chimney draft in the system components that are to be cleaned or repaired is substantially interrupted or discontinued. This is conventionally accomplished by suitable dampers or other closure elements that are permanently or temporarily installed into the feed and/or discharge lines (DE 34 01 922 A). Fixedly installed closure elements, such as dampers or the like, form additional resistances in the lines and are themselves susceptible to disruption and vulnerable to repairs. Closure elements that are temporarily installed into the line draft, for example balloons that can be inflated from the outside, cannot adequately and reliably absorb the differential pressures and loads that occur in lines having large cross-sections, and/or they require a relatively high installation expenditure.

On page 2, lines 6-9, please amend this paragraph as follows:

It is an object of the present invention ~~to reduce~~ to make available a more rapid and easier dynamic sealing/opening of the air passage crosssection in order to regulate the draft effect of the flue duct upon an upstream exhaust gas cleaning system ~~with little expenditure in order to facilitate inspection and repair in the exhaust gas cleaning system.~~

On page 2, lines 11 – 14, please delete this entire paragraph as follows:

~~This object is inventively realized by a method having the features of claim 1 or by an arrangement for reducing the flue duct draft effect (the chimney draft) upon an upstream exhaust gas cleaning system and having the features of claim 10.~~

On page 2, line 16 through page 3, line 2, please amend this paragraph as follows:

Pursuant to the inventive method, one allows a downwardly open flue duct (4; 4') to extend into a vat in such a way that, with the aid of a liquid (e.g. condensate) that collects in the vat, a liquid barrier that closes off a flue gas end of the flue duct relative to the environment is formed. To relieve the upstream exhaust gas cleaning system from the flue duct draft effect (chimney draft), at least a portion of the cross-section of the flue duct is exposed by lowering the level of the liquid below the edge of the flue duct.

On page 3, lines 4 – 12, please amend this paragraph as follows:

The arrangement for controlling the draft effect of a flue duct upon an upstream exhaust gas cleaning system is inventively characterized in that a downwardly open flue duct (4; 4') can be immersed into a vat; in that by means of a liquid (~~condensate~~) collected in the vat, a liquid barrier that closes off a flue gas end of the flue duct relative to the environment is formed; and in that the level of the liquid can be lowered below the edge of the flue duct to thereby expose at least a portion of the cross-section of the flue duct in order to relieve the upstream exhaust gas cleaning system from the flue duct draft effect.

On page 4, before line 1, please insert the following new paragraph and heading:

DE 23 46 515 B discloses compensating for temperature-dependent changes in length of flue ducts by using immersion compensators. The lower end of a steel flue gas duct has three concentric tubular sections that are closed off at the top relative to one another and form narrow yet deep annular chambers. The central tubular section extends into a narrow, deep annular cup that is filled with heavy oil. The liquid barrier that is formed thereby is not suitable for regulating the flue duct draft effect.

--Summary of the Invention--

On page 6, lines 19-20, please delete this entire paragraph as follows:

~~Advantageous and/or further developments of the invention are found in the dependent claims.~~

On page 7, before line 1, please insert the following heading:

--Brief Description of the Drawings--

On page 8, line 14, please insert the following heading:

--Description of Specific Embodiments--.

On page 13, after line 6, please insert the following two new paragraphs:

--The specification incorporates by reference the disclosure of German priority document 103 52 847.4 filed November 10, 2003 and PCT/EP2004/010827 filed September 28, 2004.

The present invention is, of course, in no way restricted to the specific disclosure of the specification and drawings, but also encompasses any modifications within the scope of the appended claims.--